

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 01089 201010Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1089

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1089

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN/PAKISTAN - "PUSHTUN LIBERATION FRONT"?

REF: KABUL 1088

1. REF VISIT WITH ITS IMPLICATIONS OF STEPPED UP VIOLENCE IN NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) WAS MADE ALMOST CERTAINLY WITH KNOWLEDGE, IF NOT AT INSTIGATION OF GOA. THIS RAISES SPECTRE OF A POSSIBLE "PUSHTUN LIBERATION FRONT", SUPPORTED TO SOME DEGREE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) WHICH WOULD ADD A MOST UNDESIRABLE DIMENSION TO THE PERENNIAL PUSHTUNISTAN QUESTION. THE AFGHANS MIGHT BE LOOKING AT THIS AS A WAY OF RESPONDING TO PUSHTUN NATIONALIST PRESSURE THROUGH SUPPORT OF AN "INDIGENOUS" MOVEMENT WHILE ENABLING THE GOA TO PIOSLY DISCLAIM ANY DIRECT ROLE IN FOMENTING MISCHIEF IN PAKISTAN.

2. ONE ALSO CAN ENVISION RUSSIAN INTEREST IN SUCH ACTIVITY WHICHWOULD (FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE) KEEP THE SOUTH ASIA POT SIMMERING, DELAY ANY POSSIBLE US/PAK MILITARY UNDERSTANDINGS (SHORT CIRCUITING REPORTED POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMERICAN INDIAN OCEAN STRATEGIC POSITION), NETTLE THE IRANIANS AND INCREASE AFGHAN DEPENDENCE ON MOSCOW.

3. WITH OUR LIMITED PERSPECTIVE AND GIVEN THE RIGOROUS ELIMINATION OF EMBASSY FILES MORE THAN THREE YEARS OLD, WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF NEA/PAB WOULD REVIEW HISTORICAL RECORD ON UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES, CONNECTED WITH PUSHTUNISTAN QUESTIONS. ANY ADDED INFORMATION OR
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PAGE 02 KABUL 01089 201010Z

PERSPECTIVE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. AT PRESENT, WHAT WE HAVE IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (BY A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF KHATTAK) THAT HE IS RECEIVING INFORMATION FROM AND CONTROLLING THE ACTIVITIES OF AN UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION. IF HIS APPROACH TO US IS THE OPENING STEP IN "GOING PUBLIC" WITH AN ADMITTED ORGANIZATION, AND WE STRESS WE ARE NOT SURE THIS IS THE CASE, IT SEEMS TO US SUCH AN ORGANIZATION WOULD MARKEDLY INCREASE CHANCES FOR OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES THEREBY JEOPARDIZING PEACEFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTIVE INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF AREA STATES.

5. AT SOME POINT, IF UNDERGROUND OR "LIBERATION" ACTIVITIES DO INDEED TAKE ON A MORE FORMAL NATURE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO HAVE US CAUTION GOA AT NAIM OR ABDULLAH LEVEL ABOUT DANGERS OF FISHING IN SUCH TROUBLED WATERS.
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